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# AMAZON INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND RESOURCES

The active and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in development planning and decisions impacting the Amazon is the foundation for long-term conservation of the world's largest tropical rainforest. Safeguarding indigenous peoples' rights and resources will help conserve irreplaceable biodiversity and promote cultural survival and self-determined development.

The Amazon Indigenous Rights and Resources (AIRR) activity seeks to conserve biodiversity by empowering indigenous peoples to better exercise their rights in the face of large-scale infrastructure development and extractive activities that may affect their livelihoods. The activity aims to incorporate the rights and interests of indigenous peoples into public and private sector development planning to balance human welfare and environmental conservation.

## HOW DOES THE PROJECT WORK?

AIRR is managed for USAID by the World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund (WWF) through a network of specialized NGOs in each country that work together with indigenous peoples' organizations at the national and local levels. The project involves 20 partners working on both thematic priorities and focused geographic areas. AIRR project has established a governance structure that provides partners with a substantial role in the local and national decision-making of the activities of the

project. Three decision-making bodies ensure the representation, relevance, and impact of project activities through various levels of engagement.

The AIRR project will strengthen the skills of indigenous peoples to more effectively advocate and negotiate for their rights, and to better monitor their lands. The project will also promote indigenous enterprises to grow and consolidate their businesses to reach national, regional or international markets through a combination of grants, loans and market.

## WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED?

- Over 30 indigenous organizations and indigenous leaders will be trained in strategic planning, conflict resolution, social inclusion and legal rights to better advocate, negotiate and represent interests and priorities of indigenous peoples in infrastructure planning and extractive industries.
- Effective monitoring systems will be established in three Amazon landscapes, and 30 trained indigenous monitors will produce compliance and impact reports related to infrastructure and extractives activities in areas of high conservation value.
- Indigenous leaders will engage in new dialogue processes with public and private stakeholders.
- At least 30 indigenous enterprises will improve business management practices, and 25 will increase product quality and quantity to meet the demands of new markets and buyers.
- Indigenous enterprises will expand to new markets (local, national, regional or global) leveraging approximately \$500,000 in external financing.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**IMPLEMENTER:** World Wide Fund for Nature/World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

**PARTNERS:** All in for Development, NESsT, Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira (COIAB), Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDESEP), Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN), Organization of Indigenous Peoples from the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC), Indigenous Zonal Organization of Putumayo (OZIP), Instituto Centro de Vida (ICV), Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM), Operação Amazônia Nativa (OPAN).

**ALLIANCE DURATION:** August 24, 2019 – August 24, 2024

**USAID FUNDING:** \$17,962,505

**LOCATION:** Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana and Suriname.

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